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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) Magnesium salt of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole **in an optical purity of at least about 94% enantiomeric excess.**

Claims 2-42 Canceled

43. (New) The compound according to claim 1, wherein the optical purity is at least 94% enantiomeric excess.

44. (New) The compound according to claim 1 or 43, wherein the compound is in crystalline form.

45. (New) Magnesium salt of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole in an optical purity of at least about 98.4% enantiomeric excess.

46. (New) The compound according to claim 45, wherein the optical purity is at least 98.4% enantiomeric excess.

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47. (New) The compound according to claim 45 or 46, wherein the compound is in crystalline form.

48. (New) Magnesium salt of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole in an optical purity of at least about 99.8% enantiomeric excess.

49. (New) The compound according to claim 48, wherein the optical purity is at least 99.8% enantiomeric excess.

50. (New) The compound according to claim 48 or 49, wherein the compound is in crystalline form.

51. (New) Magnesium salt of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole in an optical purity of at least about 99.9% enantiomeric excess.

52. (New) The compound according to claim 51, wherein the optical purity is at least 99.9% enantiomeric excess.

53. (New) The compound according to claim 51 or 52, wherein the compound is in crystalline form.